

Bighorn Acceptable Use Policy

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) recognizes the value of computers and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. To this end, the NDE encourages the responsible use of the Bighorn internet portal and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals of the NDE and its schools.

Because the Internet is an unregulated, worldwide vehicle for communication, information available to Bighorn subscribers is impossible to control one-hundred percent. Therefore, the NDE adopts this policy governing the voluntary use of electronic resources and the Bighorn internet portal in order to provide guidance to individuals and groups obtaining access to these resources on State of Nevada-owned equipment or through NDE-affiliated organizations.

NDE Rights and Responsibilities

It is the policy of the NDE to maintain an internet portal that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all portal activities by Bighorn subscribers. It shall be a violation of this policy for any Bighorn subscriber or other individual to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies for the Bighorn internet portal. Within this general policy, the NDE recognizes its legal and ethical obligation to protect the confidentiality of information and data protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). To this end, the NDE retains the following rights and recognizes the following obligations:

1. To log and monitor utilization by Bighorn subscribers.
2. To remove a Bighorn subscriber's account on the network.
3. To monitor the use of online activities. This may include real-time monitoring of network activity and/or maintaining a log of Bighorn subscribers' activity for later review.
4. To provide internal and external controls as appropriate and feasible. Such controls shall include the right to determine who will have access to parts or the whole of the Bighorn internet portal and, specifically, to exclude those who do not abide by the NDE's acceptable use policy or other policies governing the use of the Bighorn internet portal. The NDE reserves the right to restrict online destinations through software or other means.
5. To provide guidelines and make reasonable efforts to train Bighorn subscribers in acceptable use and policies governing online communications.

Staff Responsibilities

1. Staff members who supervise Bighorn subscribers, control electronic equipment, or otherwise have occasion to observe Bighorn subscribers' use of the Bighorn internet portal shall make reasonable efforts to monitor the use of the Bighorn internet portal to assure that it conforms to the mission and goals of the NDE.
2. Staff should make reasonable efforts to become familiar with the Bighorn internet portal and its use so that effective monitoring, instruction, and assistance may be achieved.

Bighorn Subscribers Responsibilities

1. Use of the electronic media provided by the Bighorn internet portal is a privilege that offers information and resources to Bighorn subscribers. Where it is available, this resource is offered to NDE, district, and school staff and other Bighorn subscribers at no cost. In order to maintain the privilege, Bighorn subscribers agree to learn and comply with all of the provisions of this policy.

Acceptable Use

1. All use of the Bighorn internet portal must be in support of educational and research objectives consistent with the mission and objectives of the NDE.
2. Proper codes of conduct in electronic communication must be used. Recording FERPA-protected personally identifiable information is prohibited. When using e-mail, posting comments, or entering descriptions, extreme caution must always be taken in revealing any information protected by FERPA.
3. Bighorn internet portal accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose.
4. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be NDE property.
5. Exhibit exemplary behavior on the network as a representative of your school and community. Be polite!
6. From time to time, the NDE will make determinations on whether specific uses of the Bighorn internet portal are acceptable.

Unacceptable Use

1. Giving out personal information about another person, including home address and phone number, is strictly prohibited.
2. Any use of the Bighorn internet portal for commercial or for-profit purposes is prohibited.
3. Any use of the Bighorn internet portal for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.
4. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the Bighorn internet portal.
5. No use of the network shall serve to disrupt the use of the Bighorn internet portal by others.
6. Malicious use of the Bighorn internet portal to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited.
7. Hate messages, chain messages, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited on the Bighorn internet portal.
8. The unauthorized installation of any software is prohibited.
9. Use of the Bighorn internet portal to access or process pornographic material, inappropriate text files (as determined by the system administrator or building administrator), or files dangerous to the integrity of the Bighorn internet portal is prohibited.

10. Downloading, copying, otherwise duplicating, and/or distributing FERPA-protected materials without the specific written permission of the Bighorn internet portal administrator is prohibited, except that duplication and/or distribution of materials for educational purposes is permitted when such duplication and/or distribution would fall within the Fair Use Doctrine of the United States Copyright Law (Title 17, USC).
11. Use of the Bighorn internet portal for any unlawful purpose is prohibited.
12. Use of profanity, obscenity, racist terms, or other language that may be offensive to another user is prohibited.
13. Establishing Bighorn internet portal connections to live communications, including voice and/or video (relay chat), is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Bighorn internet portal administrator.

Disclaimer

1. The NDE cannot be held accountable for the information that is retrieved via the Bighorn internet portal.
2. Pursuant to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (18 USC 2510 et seq.), notice is hereby given that there are no facilities provided by this system for sending or receiving private or confidential electronic communications. System administrators have access to all mail and will monitor messages. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
3. The NDE will not be responsible for any damages you may suffer, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by our own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at your own risk.
4. The NDE makes no warranties (expressed or implied) with respect to:
 - the content of any advice or information received by a user, or any costs or charges incurred as a result of seeing or accepting any information; and
 - any costs, liability, or damages caused by the way the user chooses to use his or her access to the Bighorn internet portal.
5. The NDE reserves the right to change its policies and rules at any time.